

Haas

Handwritten scribbles and signatures in the top left corner.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
RIVER CAMPUS STATION
ROCHESTER 20, NEW YORK

BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

September 30, 1957

Professor J. Lederberg
c/o Professor S. D. Rubbo
Department of Bacteriology
Melbourne University
Carlton N3, Vic., Australia

Dear Professor Lederberg:

This is a copy of a letter, dated September 25, 1957, I sent to you at the University of Wisconsin. I should like to ask you to help me in finding the right persons for appointments that we wish to make in this department effective September 1, 1958.

You may have learned that Ken Cooper has accepted a very attractive graduate research professorship at The University of Florida, Gainesville. In anticipation of Gus Doermann's leaving for Vanderbilt after his current year's leave of absence, and desiring to maintain a strong, active genetics program here, we wish to appoint an outstanding geneticist, and probably two, to our group. At the present time, our geneticists include Jakov Krivshenko, Martha Chase and myself (the former two being Research Associates). I am, of course, interested in bacterial transformation, and will continue to work in that field. We would like to have join us a geneticist of higher organisms and a microbial or chemical geneticist. At least one of these appointments can be made at a high level, and both will be regular faculty appointments.

Our department is pretty much devoted to quantitative and experimental investigations of biological phenomena, principally at the cellular and molecular levels. The faculty appointments we seek are of men who are active scientists in their fields, stimulating developers of research work and of students, and good scientist-teachers (rather than pedagogues). We seek to furnish each staff member with equivalent, and not heavy, teaching loads, with adequate services and facilities for first-class research, and with opportunities to train graduate students and post-doctoral investigators. Under Ken Cooper we have made considerable progress in creating a strong department with inter-related interests (the main areas represented are genetics, development, biochemistry and physiology), and we have every intention of continuing in this direction. For all our appointments we intend to provide the best possible conditions for an active and fruitful academic career.

By September 1958 our department will consist of ten regular faculty members, which will include at least one geneticist besides myself, a macromolecular biologist to be appointed, plus Johannes Holtfreter, embryologist; William Muchmore, physiological embryologist;

Shinya Inoué, cellular biologist; and Thomas Punnett, photosynthesis biochemist. We are going to expand in staff size and in talents represented over the next few years. By next Fall, we shall have over twenty full-time graduate students, and this number too will be increasing steadily. We are quite proud of the accomplishments of our recent Ph.D. candidates, who include Frank Stahl, now with Delbruck at Cal Tech, Dave Krieg, now at Oak Ridge, Bob Edgar, now at the Pasteur Institute, and Don Ridgeway, on his way to Linus Pauling's laboratory. We have quite a good group of graduate students at the present time, some of whom are almost ready to embark upon research work in genetics. It will be our continuing policy to seek candidates of the highest caliber for graduate degrees, believing that, in doing so, we shall be constantly improving our department.

I should add a few remarks about the amount and kind of teaching that our new staff appointments would be called upon to do. Each of us in the department teaches about a course per semester, handles two to three graduate students, gives an advanced graduate course on a bi- or tri-annual basis. The persons we are seeking to appoint would be asked to teach on this basis and to offer courses from among the following:

- Genetics - a modern one-semester course, with laboratory, for advanced undergraduate and first-year graduate students.
- Cytogenetics - an advanced course on the architecture of genetic systems.
- Heredity and Evolution - preferably an undergraduate course.
- Biochemical Genetics
- Phenogenetics or Developmental Genetics
- Genetics of Microorganisms

I myself supervise and participate in the General Biology course, enjoy it very much, and plan to continue at that. I should also point out that most of our laboratory instruction is done by graduate assistants.

You can aid us considerably by furnishing me with the names and addresses of a few persons who, in your estimation, would possess the qualities and qualifications we are seeking and who may be interested in the kind of appointment I have described. It should be understood, of course, that the rank offered will be commensurate with scholarly attainment and experience of the individual.

Finally, I would like to say that the circumstances under which Ken Cooper and Gus Doermann are leaving for new posts do not at all reflect poorly on the conditions and future of this department. If you care to consult with either person, you are encouraged to do so,

Professor J. Lederberg

-3-

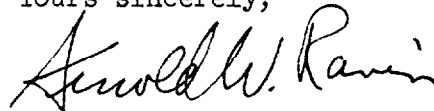
September 30, 1957

for they have kindly consented to discuss frankly the opportunities existing in this department for a fruitful academic and scientific career.

I shall write to the persons you suggest and furnish them with detailed information about the appointments to be made.

With best regards and many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arnold W. Ravin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arnold" being more prominent and the last name "Ravin" written in a more compact, flowing style.

Arnold W. Ravin
Assistant Professor of Biology
Chairman, Department of Biology

AWR:jp